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Trajectories of Offending from Childhood to Early Adulthood in Girls With and Without Mental Health System Involvement

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Maryann Davis, PhD, Steven Banks, PhD, Bernice Gershenson, MPH, William Fisher, PhD, Albert Grudzinskas, Jr., JD; Center for Mental Health Services Research

Abstract

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Introduction

Why look at arrests in the transition age group with serious mental health conditions?

Methods

Used Two Massachusetts Statewide Administrative Databases

Female Population Overlap; DMH and Justice System

Comparative Trajectory Approach

Begins longitudinal trajectory modeling describes groups of high risk, medium-risk and low-risk patterns over time, and describes those arrest patterns

Frequency of Arrest by Age 25 DMH vs Non-DMH Females

Results

Female Trajectory Groups - Predicted Charges/Year

Conclusions

Summary of Trajectory Findings

There are 4 trajectory patterns that are unique to either group

The impact of DMH is primarily observed in the trajectories of their groups, with each group

The trajectory groups that are more common are among the females with less serious offenses (2/3)

Different trajectories that different profiles, different implications

Acknowledgement

The data analysis presented here would not have been possible without the assistance, patience, and consistent professional mentoring of our behavioral colleagues, Dr. Steven Banks.